

POST OFFICE AT BOSTON.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 854.]

JUNE 22, 1860.

Mr. ALLEY, from the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads,
made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, to whom was referred the petition of citizens of Boston in relation to removal of the post office in that city, respectfully report:

That, at the close of the last session of Congress, a law was passed prohibiting the removal of the post office in Boston from its present location, if it could be retained where it then was and now is, without additional expense to the government, until the close of the present session of Congress. The reasons alleged for this prohibitory act were, that the postmaster of Boston, in opposition to the wishes of a large majority of the business men of Boston and the people generally, had leased a building in a different location from the present. It was further declared that the building was unsafe, and that it was a fraud upon the government, as it was a private speculation of the postmaster. This intention of removal having been declared, and the consent of the department being obtained, parties in interest asked for the interference of Congress to enable them to show that these allegations were correct. Congress accordingly passed an act as above cited. These parties now allege that they are able to prove all the charges preferred, and ask that Congress will make the prohibition permanent.

Your committee, without intending to pass judgment upon these declarations, believing that the power of locating post offices is wisely left with the department, and that Congress should never interfere except in extraordinary cases, are unwilling to establish a precedent in this case so far as to adjudicate it fully; but inasmuch as the department have prejudged the case, and the present postmaster has wilfully disobeyed, as appears in evidence, the law of Congress, your committee feel that the present injunction should be continued to the close of this Congress, instead of the present session, as this will probably enable all the parties in interest to obtain a fair hearing before new officers of the department, who will not be biased by previously declared opinions. And to this end your committee present the accompanying bill, with a recommendation that it do pass.

